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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Counselor and Chairman
Policy Planning Council
Washington

October 23, 1962

TO: S - The Secretary
U - The Under Secretary
G - Mr. U. A. Johnson

THROUGH: S/S

FROM: S/P - W. W. Rostow

SUBJECT: Urgent Need to Clarify Quarantine Doctrine

In a review of crisis issues, towards the end of business today, one issue emerged from various directions which I call to your urgent attention; namely, the lack of clarity in the Government on the doctrinal basis for the Cuban quarantine. This emerged in a number of Departmental and inter-departmental working level meetings.

Whether or not the crisis results in some ad hoc deal, it seems to me absolutely essential that, at this stage, as we confront the Soviet counterattack in the UN and elsewhere, we project from this Government a lucid and consistent stance rooted in the legitimacy of Hemispheric doctrine under the Charter.

I recommend, therefore, that the Executive Committee of the NSC consider issuing promptly an action memorandum stating the legal basis for our position for the information of all relevant officers of the Government, at home and abroad.

I recommend, also, that Mr. William Jorden be instructed to work out with the regional bureaus lines of exposition for our field posts which would underline the direct interest of various Free World nations and regions in sustaining the special status of Hemispheric arrangements under the Charter.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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